

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01

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O P 070450Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

INFO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 9470

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 1807

USIAC

TOKYO FOR VOA

E.O. 11652: N/A

1. THREE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS COMMENTED ON VIETNAM.

2. THE PENANG STAR SAID:

3. "PRESIDENT FORD IS FRUSTRATED BY THE LIMITATIONS PLACED ON THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. HE CANNOT SEND TROOPS BACK TO VIETNAM EXCEPT PERHAPS TO AID IN EVACUATING AMERICANS IF NECESSARY. MOST PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SEE PEACE RESTORED IN VIETNAM CANNOT HELP BRING DEEPLY TROUBLED BY THE PRESIDENT'S SENTIMENT.

4. "MOST PEOPLE ARE AGREED THAT THE VIETNAMESE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SETTLE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. THE LEAST THAT CAN BE DONE NOW IS NOT TO TRY AND MAKE IT HARDER. THE VIETNAMESE OBVIOUSLY DON'T WANT TO FIGHT ANYMORE."

5. COMMENTING ON THE CHARGES MADE BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ENVOY IN LONDON THAT THE U.S. AIRLIFTS OF ORPHANS ARE "ACTS OF SABOTAGE, TRICKERY AND HYPOCRICY," THE PAPER SAID:

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6. "IT IS LUDICROUS TO THINK THAT THIS IS BEHIND THE U.S. MERCY MISSION. IT IS MORE UNCOMPLICATED AND REALISTIC TO SAY THAT THE AMERICANS ARE SINCERE WHEN THEY SAY THAT THIS IS THE LEAST THEY COULD DO."

7. THE STRAITS TIMES SAID:

8. "MR. FORD'S RECAPITULATION OF CHAOS AND CRISIS APPEARED LESS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, WITH THE IMMEDIATE TRAGEDY IN VIETNAM THAN AN APPEAL TO FRIENDS AND A WARNING TO OTHERS NOT TO BELIEVE THAT WHAT IS HAPPENING THERE, AND WHAT MAY STILL HAPPEN, CAN BE INTERPRETED AS A LOSS OF AMERICAN WILL OR DESIRE TO STAND UP FOR FREEDOM IN ANY PLACE IN THE WORLD. FINE WORDS AND AMERICA'S FRIENDS DO NOT QUESTION THE PRESIDENT'S HONESTY AND SPIRIT. WHAT DOES ALARM THEM IS THE GULF BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS. THE HUMANE RESCUE OPERATION MR. FORD PLANS, FLYING 2,000 ORPHANS TO THE U.S. WILL NOT REASSURE THEM."

9. IN A SEPARATE EDITORIAL THE SAME PAPER COMMENTED:

10. "THE FACT THAT THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED TWO MILLION REFUGEES WHO FLED FROM THE PATH OF VIETCONG PERHAPS SHOWS THAT THE VIETCONG MAY HOLD TERRITORY BUT NOT THE HEARTS OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, ABOUT 20 MILLION PEOPLE ALTOGETHER AND IT WOULD APPEAR THAT A GOOD MANY OF THEM WHO MAY HAVE NO SYMPATHY WITH THE COMMUNISTS ARE NEVERTHELESS RESIGNED TO THEIR NEW MASTERS. AFTER HAVING KNOWN THE MISERY OF WAR FOR SO LONG THEY MAY FEEL THAT PEACE EVEN AT THIS PRICE IS WORTHWHILE."

11. THE STRAITS ECHO IS A COMMENT ON CAMBODIA SAID:

12. "MR. LONG BORET MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF A COUNTER-ATTACK. EVIDENTLY ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT TWO PROVINCIAL CAPITALS ARE STILL IN GOVERNMENT HANDS.

13. "IN PHNOM PENH'S PRESENT PLIGHT THIS IS HARDLY A BASIS FOR OPTIMISM. MR. LONG, HOWEVER, WAS BANKING ON THE U.S. CONGRESS TO MAKE AVAILABLE THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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MATERIAL AID. HE HAS THE RIGHT TO HOPE." ITEM.
MAHONEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, EMERGENCY EVACUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA01807
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750119-0712
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750476/aaaacrit.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: SOPN, MY, US, VS
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006